

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00306 201709Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5224

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 0306

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IC

SUBJECT: LABOR NEGOTIATORS URGE APRIL 7 GENERAL STRIKE

REF: REYKJAVIK 0243

1. COMMITTEE REPRESENTING ICELANDIC FEDERATION OF LABOR IN CURRENT WAGE/TERMS TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY YESTERDAY CALLED ON ALL IFL AFFILIATES TO STRIKE BEGINNING APRIL 7 IF NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT HAS NOT BEEN REACHED BY THEN. DECISION BY COMMITTEE, WHICH CONSISTS OF NINE TOP IFL OFFICIALS INCLUDING PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, WAS UNANIMOUS. IFL MEMBER UNIONS HAVE BEEN COLLECTING RANK-AND-FILE AUTHORIZATION TO STRIKE FOR PAST TWO WEEKS (REFTEL), DURING WHICH LITTLE OR NO PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS HAS BEEN REPORTED. BJORN JONSSON, PRESIDENT OF IFL, PREDICTED TODAY THAT "LARGE MAJORITY" OF UNIONS WOULD HEED STRIKE CALL, ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT PREDICT 100 PERCENT PARTICIPATION.

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2. MEMBER OF IFL NEGOTIATING TEAM TOLD EMBOFF TODAY

THAT LABOR STILL HOPES STRIKE CAN BE AVERTED. HE
SAID APRIL 7 DATE DOES NOT REPRESENT INFLEXIBLE
DEADLINE, AND THAT STRIKE WOULD BE DELAYED OR CALLED
OFF DEPENDING ON PROGRESS OF CONTINUING TALKS. HOW-
EVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO GESTURE
TOWARD LABOR ON PART OF GOVERNMENT OR EMPLOYERS SINCE
OFFER THREE WEEKS AGO OF 3800 IKR MONTHLY WAGE HIKE,
WHICH UNIONS REJECTED. LABOR NOW HOPING, HE SAID,
THAT GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC PACKAGE INTRODUCED TODAY
(SEPTEL) WILL CONTAIN PROPOSALS THAT UNIONS CAN AC-
CEPT.
IRVING

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